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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/931,670	08/16/2001	Achim Ansmann	H 2674A PCT/US	3804

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COGNIS CORPORATION
2500 RENAISSANCE BLVD., SUITE 200
GULPH MILLS, PA 19406

EXAMINER

JONES, DAMERON LEVEST

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1616

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/931,670

Applicant(s)

ANSMANN ET AL.

Examiner

D. L. Jones

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
 - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 11-22 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other:

RESTRICTION INTO GROUPS

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 11-14 and 18-22, drawn to compositions and uses thereof comprising a dialkyl ether, a cationic polymer, and a fatty acid N-alkyl polyhydroxylalkyl emulsifier, classified in class 424, subclass 401.
- II. Claims 11-13, 15, and 18-22, drawn to compositions and uses thereof comprising a dialkyl ether, a cationic polymer, and an alkyl ether sulfate emulsifier, classified in class 424, subclass 401.
- III. Claims 11-13 and 16-22, drawn to compositions and uses thereof comprising a dialkyl ether, a cationic polymer, and a betaine emulsifier, classified in class 424, subclass 401.

Note: Claims appearing in more than one group will only be examined to the extent that they read on the elected group.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-III are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions because (1) they do not have the same claim limitations, for example, the compositions in each group are separate from one another because they each require a different emulsifier; (2) the emulsifiers of each group neither anticipate nor render obvious emulsifiers of the other groups.

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3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Claims 11-22 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising compositions having a dialkyl ether, a cationic polymer, and various emulsifiers that are distinct from one another as set forth above. Furthermore, the emulsifiers are encompassed in formulae III, V, or VIII as set forth in claims 14-17 wherein the variable values range from and aliphatic acyl group containing 6 – 22 carbon atoms to a linear or branched polyhydroxylalkyl group having 3 – 12 carbon atoms and 3 – 10 hydroxyl groups. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, even though this requirement is traversed.

Various *Various*

EX 1
EX 2
EX 3

Note: Applicant is respectfully requested to elect a single species from within the elected group above for search purposes. The single species should comprise specific dialkyl ether corresponding to formula I, a specific cationic polymer (for example see claim 13), and a specific emulsifier. In addition, the Examiner respectfully requests that the Applicant assign each variable the appropriate value when electing a species (i.e., X = hydrogen; Z = nitrogen; Y = -CH₃; etc.) and state which claims are drawn to the elected species.

5. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the

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case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

6. A telephone call was not made to require an oral election to the above restriction requirement due to the complexity of the restriction requirement.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).


8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. L. Jones whose telephone number is (703) 308-4640. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (alternate Mon.), 6:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jose' Dees can be reached on (703) 308- 4628. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4556 for regular communications and (703) 308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.



D. L. Jones
Primary Examiner
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September 3, 2002